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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

II. Listing of Claims

Claims 1-33 (Canceled)

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): A method of executing a metric query for a relational database, the relational database having fact tables, dimension tables, and metadata describing the relationships between the fact and dimension tables, wherein the fact tables include measures which can be additive or non-additive, and wherein the metadata includes a designation specifying by dimension which measures are additive and which measures are non-additive, the method comprising:

- receiving the metric query from a client;
- determining which hierarchical levels of the fact and dimension tables are available in the relational database for responding to the metric query;
- determining at least one database query according to the available hierarchical levels of the fact and dimension tables;
- retrieving data corresponding to the at least one database query from the relational database; and
- responding to the metric query based on the data retrieved, whereby the response is tailored to the most efficient hierarchical level necessary depending on whether the measures of the requested metric are additive.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 34, wherein the metric query calls for a metric broken down across a requested dimension and also calls for a roll-up of that metric.

Claim 36 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 34, wherein

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the metric query is received by an analytical server which is positioned between the client and a Relational Database Management System (RDBMS);
the relational database is located on the RDBMS; and
the method is operable on the analytic server to provide an interface between the client and the relational database.

Claim 37 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 36, wherein the analytical server receives from the RDBMS at least a portion of the metadata information including information about whether certain measures are additive and information about the logical hierarchy of the fact and dimension tables.

Claim 38 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 37, wherein the available hierarchical levels of the fact and dimension tables are determined based on the metric query received from the client and based on the received metadata information from the RDBMS regarding the logical hierarchy of the fact and dimension tables and whether the measures of the requested metric are additive.

Claim 39 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 35, wherein the determining of the at least one database query takes into account whether the requested metric is additive specifically across the requested dimension.

Claim 40 (Previously Presented): A method of executing a metric query for a relational database, the relational database having fact tables, dimension tables, and metadata describing the relationships between the fact and dimension tables, the method comprising:
receiving the metric query from a client;
determining which hierarchical levels of the fact and dimension tables are available in the relational database for responding to the metric query, wherein at least one measure within the fact and dimension tables are insufficiently fine in a requested dimension in order to respond to the metric query;

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determining at least one metric by which the at least one measure which was unavailable at the requested fineness can be approximated by the using the measure along the requested dimension at a higher hierarchical level than the one needed to directly respond to the metric query; and
sending a database query to the relational database based on the determining of available hierarchical levels of the fact and data tables and upon at least one higher hierarchical level for the needed measure along the dimension which was unavailable at the needed hierarchical level.

Claim 41 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 40, wherein the determining of which hierarchical levels of the fact and dimension tables are available in the relational database is based on a logical hierarchy of the fact and dimension tables and based on the metric query received from the client.

Claim 42 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 41, wherein the at least one metric by which the at least one measure which was unavailable at the requested fineness is determined according to the available hierarchical levels of the fact and dimension tables.

Claim 43 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 40, wherein the metric query is received by an analytical server which is positioned between the client and a Relational Database Management System (RDBMS);
the relational database is located on the RDBMS; and
the method is operable on the analytic server to provide an interface between the client and the relational database.

Claim 44 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 43, wherein the analytical server receives, from the RDBMS, information about whether certain measures are additive and information about the logical hierarchy of the fact and dimension tables.

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Claim 45 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 40, wherein the measure which was unavailable at the requested fineness was a time measure.

Claim 46 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 45, wherein a requested hierarchical level along the time dimension was for a measure broken down by month.

Claim 47 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 46, wherein to approximate the measure on a monthly basis, a measure broken down by quarter is divided by three and assigned to the requested months.

Claim 48 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 46, wherein to approximate the measure on a monthly basis, the measure is repeated at the requested months.

Claim 49 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 48, wherein the measure was an average.

Claims 50-56 (Canceled)